



Tigers blow twenty-point lead

BY SUMANT KUMAR AND
MATT FELTHAM

On Saturday afternoon, the men's basketball team ventured into the confines of the Halifax Metro Centre to take on the St. Francis-Xavier X-Men. This was a rematch of last year's AUAA semi-final which the X-Men took by a single point, and it was clear that the Tigers were out for revenge. But once again the X-Men topped the Tigers in a close, 81-77, affair.

From the start of the game, it appeared as though the X-Men had taken their opponents too lightly as the Tigers came out flying. Led by the strong play of Brian Parker, including four out of four from the three-point line, Dal quickly opened up a 25-10 lead and, by the ten-minute mark it had been extended to 31-12. After a quick time-out by St.FX coach Steve Konchalski, the X-Men were able to regroup and the teams matched baskets with Dal only able to stretch their commanding lead from 19 to 20 points. However, a brief letdown by the Tigers in the last two minutes allowed the X-Men to score 8 straight points to go into half-time down 50-37.

This was possibly the best half of basketball that the Tigers had played all year as they shot an amazing 63 per cent from the field, including 57 per cent from three-point range.

The second half began in the same way that the first half ended — with the X-Men continuing their strong play. After a three-point shot by guard Marc Chisholm which narrowed Dal's lead to 61-54, Dal coach Tim McGarrigle was forced to call a time-out to rally his team. This obviously motivated his players as they went on an 11-4 run which began on a Darryl Baptiste three-point shot and ended with six consecutive points by Dale Jackson to go up 72-58 with 8 minutes remaining. From here it appeared as though the Tigers would coast to the victory as, with only five minutes remaining, the Tigers were still easily on top by a score of 76-64.

However, the X-Men showed the 2500 fans why they were the number one ranked team in Canada last week. Jayson Daymon got it started with two consecutive interior dunks and, coupled with the play of Chisholm, the X-Men narrowed the lead to six with two minutes remaining. After a free-throw by Dal's Baptiste, the X-Men narrowed the lead to one with 1:15 remaining.

When the Tigers' Parker missed a three-point attempt, the X-Men quickly brought the ball up and took the lead 78-77 with 45 seconds remaining on a driving lay-up by Truro native Jeff Piers.

From here, the Tigers were never able to recover as they missed their remaining shots and were forced to foul. AUAA playoff MVP Marc McKay ended all of Dalhousie's hopes when he gave the X-Men a four-point cushion with five seconds remaining after making a

foul shot. Dalhousie, once up by twenty points, had allowed the X-Men to win 81-77 on the strength of a 17-1 run to the end of the game.

Isaac King and Andrew Tyler led the X-Men with 16 points each and back-up point guard Chisholm continued his outstanding play by netting 15. Parker once again showed clearly why he is the best player in Canada as he netted 25 points on 8-of-15 shooting. He also got nine

assists, nine rebounds and nine steals for a near quadruple double. Baptiste and Jackson were the other leading Tigers with 19 and 17 points, respectively.

The Tigers now have time off for exams, before they regroup for the Ryerson Tournament in Toronto on December 28. The Tigers will host their own Rod Shoveller Memorial Tournament at Dalplex from January 2-4.

Tigers split two to end term

BY ANDREW COOK

The Dalhousie women's basketball Tigers finished their pre-Christmas schedule this past week, splitting their two games to move to 2-2 in AUAA play. Dalhousie captured a big home victory on Tuesday night, knocking off the defending conference champions St.FX 54-50. Unfortunately the road was not as kind to Dalhousie, with the Panthers of UPEI handing the Tigers a 73-68 loss on the island.

Tuesday night's contest at the Dalplex was the definition of winning ugly. Dalhousie struggled again with turnover problems, this time committing a season-high 36,

leading to 20 of St. FX's 50 points. Dalhousie also had a miserable time shooting the basketball, making just 27 per cent of their 73 shots and missing 9 of 21 free throws.

As always though, it was high-pressure defense on the perimeter that proved to be the constant in the Tigers success. Dalhousie offset their own turnover problems by forcing the X-Women into 39 turnovers, creating 21 points for Dalhousie. The Tigers' Janice King came up one steal shy of a triple double with 9. King had a career-high 14 rebounds and 10 points. Angelia Crealock and Jillian Macdonald were the only others to finish in double figures, with 10 and 13, respectively. Janet

Dal hockey evens up for first semester

BY EUGENIA BAYADA

The men's hockey Tigers ended the first half of the season on a high note on Sunday as they beat St.FX 4-3 in the term's final game after losing 7-5 on Friday at Acadia.

"I thought that we played similar games for both games on the weekend," said team captain Dave Haynes, "except that on Friday night we didn't seem to have the breaks and on Sunday we got the breaks. Also, our goaltending was key."

At Wolfville, both teams started off a little 'rusty' and it was past the halfway mark before Acadia scored twice to take the lead. Tigers Martin LaPointe and Jody Shelley created scoring opportunities but it was Marc Warner and Craig Whynot who responded to tie up the score by the end of the first period. Warner potted the first goal from the slot while Whynot's low blast from the blueline found nothing but net.

Chris Pittman went top shelf on a quick pass from LaPointe to give Dal the lead at 3:36 of the second. The Tigers dominated the period, outshooting, outplaying and outchancing the home team, and the game picked up considerable speed, but the Axemen managed to tie it up. Ted Naylor netted the rebound after LaPointe's slap from the blueline hit the post in the dying seconds of the frame.

Acadia scored twice in quick succession in the third minute of the final frame to regain the lead. Tim Hill netted the equalizer at 6:56 as he intercepted a bad pass in front of the goal and deked goaltender George Dourian, but that was as close as Dal would get. Paul Doherty went one-on-one with Tiger goaltender Fred Corkum and scored on a high hard slap from the

slot at 18:20. Axeman rookie Russell Hogue scored an empty netter to seal Acadia's victory at 19:47.

St.FX saw a fast start and offensive play for both teams in a chippy game. Rob Massa was quick to give the X-Men the lead on a power play slap from the face off circle. The Tigers quickly settled into their game and some smooth



photo by Ryan Lash

passing allowed Naylor to score the equalizer from the slot at 13:35. Brian O'Neill gave St.FX their go-ahead goal as he went top shelf on Corkum's left side at 16:49. The Tigers outshot St.FX 15-9 in the frame.

Maurice Meagher hammered the puck through the five hole from outside the crease to increase the home team's lead to 3-1 at 1:07 of the second period. Dal exhibited strong defence in the period as the X-Men got progressively

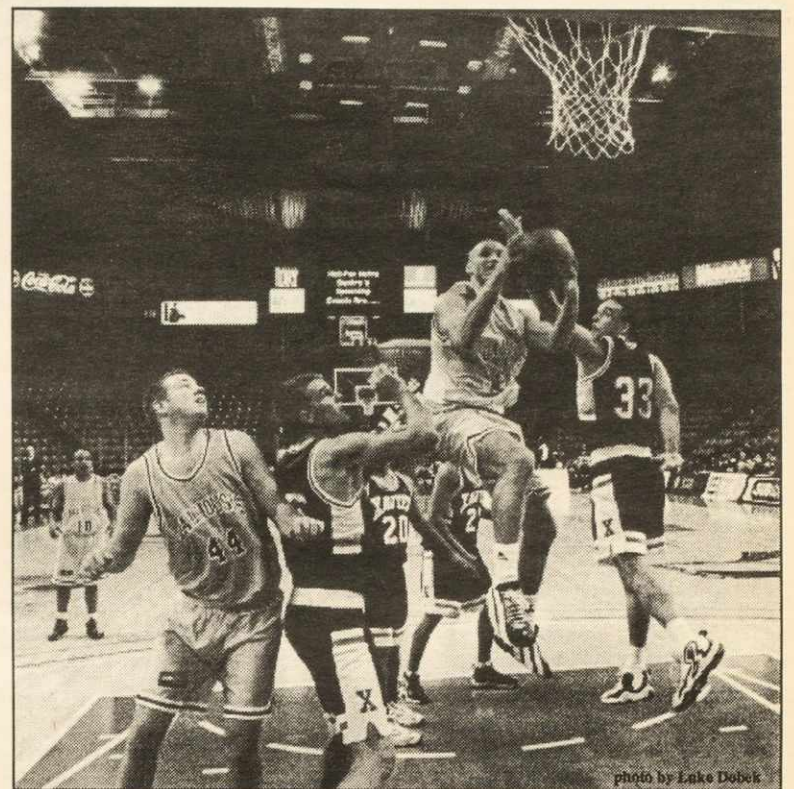


photo by Luke Dobek

Wells had a game high 14 rebounds including 9 on the offensive glass.

On Friday, Dalhousie drove across the bridge to take on a veteran UPEI squad. The Panthers, who went undefeated at the Subway Centennial, came at the tired Tigers for 40 minutes with an up-tempo attack, outlasting Dalhousie 73-68.

Crealock was Dalhousie's top scorer with 15 points, while King (12), Angela Thistle (12), and Wells (10) also marked

in double figures. All-Stars Eirann Rigby and Jen Johnston were solid for UPEI with 19 and 13, respectively. Co-Players of the Game Kate Ellis and Krista Connolly each were key in the Panthers late game run.

The loss dropped the Tigers to 2-2 in conference play and 7-2 overall. Dalhousie now breaks for Christmas with their next action coming at the Dalplex, December 29, against Brandon University.

more offensive and physical, and denied them any further points. Haynes added another goal for the Tigers at 11:39 as the puck bounced off the post.

Both teams came out relatively weaker in the third but the Tigers managed to pull themselves together to gain control of the game. Jan Melicherik tied up the score at 6:07

with a neat sweep through the five hole. Pittman gave the Tigers the lead as he netted the game-winner over X-Man goaltender Shawn Silver's right shoulder.

The Tigers exhibited good

defence, backed up by strong goaltending by Corkum, before picking up the offense for the frame's final six minutes. Referee Allie Affleck handed out a couple of questionable penalties for high-sticking to Dallas Gray and Haynes in the dying minutes but the Tigers hung on regardless, finishing off the final game of the semester short-handed and with two points.

"Obviously I was much more proud of their performance on

Sunday than Friday," said head coach Darrell Young. "We came together much better as a group, as a unit; we came back when they were up and played at the level that we're capable of playing."

"Sunday was an example of what we are capable of when we play sixty minutes," added Haynes.

The Tigers finished off the first term with a 7-7-0 record and in second place behind St.FX in the Kelly Division, but Young is only concerned with the team's performance during the last game.

"You can't worry about what happened a month ago or a week ago, you've got to worry about the present. That puts us in a good position going into the second term," he said.

"I thought that there were a lot of positive things and some negatives that came out of [the first term]," concluded Haynes, "but hopefully we learnt something about consistent play and we'll be able to carry a little bit of momentum from our game against X into the second half."

The Tigers' next season game is against St.FX at Antigonish on January 7. Prior to that, they will host Manitoba in exhibition play on January 2.

Athletes of the Week



JEN PARKES
VOLLEYBALL

Jen's strong play from the middle blocker position helped Dalhousie capture the silver medal at the UdeM Invitational Tournament on the weekend. Parkes led the Tigers in both blocks and kills in matches throughout the tournament. Jen is a fifth-year BSc student from Sydney, Nova Scotia.



BRIAN PARKER
BASKETBALL

Brian scored 49 points, hauled down 16 rebounds and dished out 10 assists in leading the Tigers to a 1-1 record on the weekend. He is dominating the AUAA in his last season as a Tiger, leading the league in scoring and free throw percentage. He is 11th in the league in rebounding at 6.5 per game while shooting 60 per cent from the floor. Brian is a fifth-year BA student from Laurel, Maryland.